(c) remedial steps proposed in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Railway have informed that normally no separate classification is prescribed for movement of commodities, including Single Super Phosphate, for export. The traffic in Single Super Phosphate booked to Bangladesh was charged at the prescribed tariff and Railways have not suffered any loss on this account. This issue has also been examined by the Commercial Committee of Interchange (CCI) consisting of all the Chief Commercial Managers of Zonal Railways who have stated that no separate classification for export traffic of this commodity needs to be prescribed. Regarding movement of rice consignments sponsored by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) not utilised for the Public Distribution System, Railways have stated that action has been taken to raise undercharges and realise the same.

Scheme for Soil Conservation and Shifting Cultivation in North-East

1873. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken up by Government to provide the seven agriculture input at the door steps of farmers to ensure their agricultural productions;

(b) what new measures are to be taken up during the Ninth Plan for soil conservation/shifting cultivation control schemes in the North-East Region; and

(c) the amount of funds to be released on State-wise basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) A list of important schemes implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture for improving the availability of essential inputs for the farmers is enclosed as Statement. (see *below*)

(b) and (c) The new measures during the Ninth Plan for Soil Conservation/ Shifting Cultivation Control Schemes in the North-East Region have not been finalised.

Statement

List of important Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture for improving the availability of essential inputs.

Sl. No. *Name of Schemes*

EXTENSION

1. Strengthening of Agril. Extension Training in the Country.
2. Production of Agricultural Films (Film Unit)
3. Extension through Voluntary Organisation.
4. Training of Women in Agriculture

SEEDS

5. National and Technical Assistance and Investment for Seed.
6. National Seed Training Centres.
7. Transport Subsidy on Seeds to National Seeds Corporation/S.F.C.I.
8. Secretariat support to Central Seed Certification Board.
9. Streamlining Certified Seeds Production of Improved Identified crops.
10. National Programme for varietal Development.
11. Integrated Seed Development Programme.

FERTILIZER

12. National Project and Technology Mission on Development and use of Bio-Fertilisers.
13. Central Fertilizers Quality Control and Training Institute and Regional Laboratories.
14. Data Processing on Computer
15. Balanced Use of Fertilisers.
16. Modernisation of Soil Testing Services.

PLANT PROTECTION

17. Central Plant Protection Training Institute.
18. Integrated Pest Management.
19. Expansion of Plant Quarantine Facilities
20. Expansion and Strengthening of Locust Warning Organisation.
21. Implementation of the Insecticides Act, 1986 and Regional Pesticides Quality Control Laboratories.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS & MACHINERY

22. Strengthening of Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institute at Budni, Hissar, Garladinne and Sonitpur
23. Establishment of Farms Machinery Training and Testing Institute in Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Eastern Region.
24. Promotion of Agricultural Mechanisation amongst small farmers
25. Development of Prototypes of Industrial designs of Agricultural Implements.
26. Strengthening of Agricultural Engineering Department of State Agriculture Universities.

CREDIT

27. Investment in Debentures of Land Development Banks.
28. Credit Cooperative Institution in under-developed States.
29. Agricultural Credit Stabilisation Fund.
30. Special Schemes for SC/ST.

WATER MANAGEMENT

31. On-Farm Water Management System.
32. Use of Plastics in Agriculture and promotion of drip/sprinkler irrigation systems.

Indo-Australian Collaboration Programme

1874. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) is likely to fund new farm projects and allied sectors in India under the Indo-Australian collaboration programme;

(b) if so, what are the projects which are identified for the purpose; and

(c) the time it will take to complete the projects with details of each project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) A Joint Indo-ACIAR Consultation was held on July 10-11, 1997 at New Delhi to identify priorities for future collaboration between the two research organisations. The priority areas have been identified in the field of crop sciences including fodder production, post harvest technology, animal sciences land and water resources, forestry, fisheries, agricultural and natural resource economics and capacity building through research training.

(c) The new projects based on priorities finally approved for possible funding under collaborative arrangement may come through after the draft priorities are agreed upon.

Development of Animal Husbandry in North-East

1875. DR. B. B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is ample scope for the development of animal husbandry in the North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State wise; and

(c) the details of the assistance given to various State Governments for the development schemes during 1996-97, State-wise?